AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An engine enclosure for use on a vehicle having a cooling system for a vertical shaft type engine with a cooling air intake fan disposed above the engine, said engine enclosure comprising:

an upper hood for covering said engine from above, said upper hood having an upper surface and right and left side surfaces extending downward from said upper surface;

a lower hood for covering lateral areas of said engine; and

~~a~~ cooling air intake ~~opening~~ openings each formed in a position above a lower end of ~~at least one of~~ respective said right and left side surfaces of said upper hood for taking in ambient air,

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wherein at least one barrier wall is disposed near each of said cooling air intake openings and between said cooling air intake openings, and so that one of said cooling air intake openings is invisible to another of said cooling air intake openings, and vice versa.

2. (Original) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 1, further comprising a fan cover for covering an upper portion of said engine including said fan and having an air passage for permitting inflow of cooling air to said fan, the lower end of said upper hood being located above a lower end of said fan cover.

3. (Currently Amended) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 1, further comprising a partition wall member disposed between each of said cooling air intake ~~opening~~ openings and said cooling air intake fan for restricting mixing of ambient air drawn by said fan and heat generating from said engine.

4. (Original) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 3, wherein said partition wall member defines a duct for guiding the ambient air to said fan.

5. (Original) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 3, wherein said partition wall member and said upper surface of said upper hood define a duct structure for guiding the ambient air to said fan.

6. (Original) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 3, wherein said partition wall member is attached to said upper hood, said upper hood being displaceable between a closed position adjacent said lower hood and an open position, said fan being exposed when said upper hood is in said open position.

7. (Canceled)

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8. (Currently Amended) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 1, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein said barrier wall is disposed between said cooling air intake ~~opening~~ openings and said fan for restraining said ambient air taken in through said cooling air intake ~~opening~~ openings from directly reaching said fan.

9. (Currently Amended) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 2, wherein each of said cooling air intake ~~opening~~ openings has a lower end thereof located above an upper end of said fan cover covering said fan.

10. (Currently Amended) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 2, wherein each of said cooling air intake ~~opening~~ openings has a forward end thereof located forwardly from a suction port of said fan, and a rear end located in a position corresponding to or rearwardly of said air passage of said fan cover, said cooling air intake opening being open continuously from said forward end to said rear end.

11. (Original) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 3, wherein said partition wall member is fixed to said side surfaces of said upper hood.

12. (Currently Amended) An engine cooling system for use on a lawn mower having a vertical shaft type engine with a cooling air intake fan disposed above the engine, comprising:

a fan cover for covering said fan;

a hood for covering said engine, said hood including:

an upper hood having a lower end located above a lower end of said fan cover; and

a lower hood~~;~~ ,

wherein said upper hood is displaceable between a closed position adjacent said lower hood and an open position;

a cooling air intake opening formed in at least one of said upper hood adjacent a control panel and said control panel for taking in ambient air; and

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a partition wall member disposed between said cooling air intake opening and said cooling air intake fan for restricting mixing of ambient air drawn by said fan and heat generating from said engine, said partition wall member being fixed to said upper hood,

wherein a rear end portion of said partition wall member ~~extending~~ extends over to a position ~~adjacent~~ above said cooling air intake opening to ~~take in~~ allow passage of ambient air drawn in through a position above the lower end of said upper hood.

13. (Currently Amended) An engine cooling system as defined in claim 12, wherein said cooling air intake opening is formed in said control panel, said rear end portion of said partition wall member being part of a lower surface ~~thereof~~ of said partition wall member and extending rearwardly of said ~~lawn mower~~ partition wall member to ~~take in~~ allow passage of ambient air from said cooling air intake opening.

14. (New) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 1, wherein each said barrier wall is disposed to each of said cooling air intake openings so as to shield an interior of the engine enclosure.

15. (New) An engine enclosure for use on a vehicle having a cooling system for a vertical shaft type engine with a cooling air intake fan disposed above the engine, said engine enclosure comprising:

an upper hood for covering said engine from above, said upper hood having an upper surface and right and left side surfaces extending downward from said upper surface;

a lower hood for covering lateral areas of said engine; and

a cooling air intake opening formed in a position above a lower end of at least one of said right and left side surfaces of said upper hood for taking in ambient air,

wherein at least one barrier wall is provided to said cooling air intake opening so as to shield an interior of the engine enclosure.

16. (New) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 15, said barrier wall is disposed between said cooling air intake opening and said fan for restraining said ambient air taken in through said cooling air intake opening from directly reaching said fan.

17. (New) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 15, further comprising a fan cover for covering an upper portion of said engine including a fan and having an air passage for permitting inflow of cooling air to said fan, the lower end of said upper hood being located above a lower end of said fan cover.

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18. (New) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 15, further comprising a partition wall member disposed between said cooling air intake opening and said cooling air intake fan for restricting mixing of ambient air drawn by said fan and heat generating from said engine.

19. (New) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 18, wherein said partition wall member defines a duct for guiding the ambient air to said fan.

20. (New) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 18, wherein said partition wall member and said upper surface of said upper hood define a duct structure for guiding the ambient air to said fan.

21. (New) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 18, wherein said partition wall member is attached to said upper hood, said upper hood being displaceable between a closed position adjacent said lower hood and an open position, said fan being exposed when said upper hood is in said open position.

22. (New) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 17, wherein said cooling air intake opening has a lower end thereof located above an upper end of said fan cover covering said fan.

23. (New) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 17, wherein said cooling air intake opening has a forward end thereof located forwardly from a suction port of said fan, and a rear end located in a position corresponding to or rearwardly of said air passage of said fan cover, said cooling air intake opening being open continuously from said forward end to said rear end.

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24. (New) An engine enclosure as defined in claim 18, wherein said partition wall member is fixed to said side surfaces of said upper hood.